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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR: Moore DATE TYPED: 01/27/03 HB 125

SHORT TITLE: Veterans' High School Diplomas SB \_\_\_\_\_

ANALYST: Chabot

### APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY03	FY04	FY03	FY04		
			\$.01	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

New Mexico Veterans' Service Commission (VSC)  
State Department of Education (SDE)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 125 creates statute that would allow any honorably discharged veteran of World War II to receive a high school diploma if the entry into the service prevented the graduation from high school.

#### Significant Issues

This bill is a very inexpensive way to honor World War II veterans. Requirements to prove eligibility should be minimal and should consist of proof of service.

SDE points out that 26 states have enacted or are proposing legislation to provide World War II veterans high school diplomas if entry into the military prevented them from graduating.

**FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

There is no appropriation in this bill; minor administrative costs may result but these should be covered by the operating budget of the State Department of Education and local school district boards.

**ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

If requested, VSC will use their database of veteran property tax exemption certificates to assist local school boards in determining eligibility for this program.

The State Board of Education will be required to adopt and promulgate rules of eligibility and devise an application form.

**POSSIBLE QUESTIONS**

1. Should the proposed statute be expanded to cover other periods of combat where individuals were drafted, such as the Korean War and Viet-Nam War, and could not finish high school and had to enter the military?

GAC/njw